GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:805
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2001
RESEARCH IN FIELD OF ECO-FRIENDLY PESTICIDES
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore has done pioneering research in the field of eco-friendly pesticides;

(b) if so, whether any pesticides in this eco-friendly category, were introduced to farmers;

(c) the details of such eco-friendly pesticides developed by the Indian Institute for Horticultural Research;

(d) the extent to which the pesticides found a place in farm practices in our country; and

(e) the details of other measures proposed to develop eco-friendly pesticides?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b), (c) & (d) : A number of eco-friendly pesticides have been introduced to the farmers as given below :

i. For control of grape mealy bug (Maconellicoccus hirsutus), release of the Coccinellid predator Cryptolaemus montrouzieri and Cryptolaemus motoruzieri has been found effective.

ii. The application of Trichoderma an antagonistic fungus is used by the farmers for control of many soil borne diseases and nematodes in horticultural crops.

iii. Spray of Neem Seed Kernel Extracts (NSKE) and use of neem cake have been widely practiced by many fruit and vegetable growers.

iv. Successful reduction of spiralling whitefly has been achieved within one year after introduction of the parasitoid Encarsia guadelope.

v. Neochitina eichorniae and Zygogramma bicolorata have been effectively used to suppress the aquatic weed water hyacinth and terrestrial weed parthemium, respectively.

(e) The details of other eco-friendly pesticides being developed by IIHR, Bangalore are as under :

i. Neem and Pongamia Soaps : These soaps are being tested at IIHR, Bangalore under Institute Village Linkage Programme (IVLP and were found to be highly effective on cabbage against diamond back moth besides aphids, hoppers and thrips.

ii. Nomuraea rileyi, fungus is being developed for control of major horticultural crops pests.

iii. Azadirachtin for banana pseudostem borer and fish oil rosin soap for pomegranate aphids are being recommended for adoption.

iv. Research is being carried out on the use of jatropha and prickly poppy oils besides neem and pongamia cakes for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) of ornamental crop pests.